

# USDA Rural Development Annual Report 2011

# Maine



Your Toolkit for Building Strong and Vibrant Rural Maine Communities

"Through Rural Development programs USDA continues to work alongside farmers, ranchers, homeowners, businesses, nonprofits, cooperatives, Tribes and local governments to effectively enhance the country's economic climate. These partnerships allow us to leverage private and public funding to promote local and regional business development, infrastructure build-out and access to affordable credit in rural areas. During the last fiscal year, the cumulative results of these efforts have helped save or create thousands of jobs in rural America and beyond."

—U.S. Agriculture  
Secretary Tom Vilsack

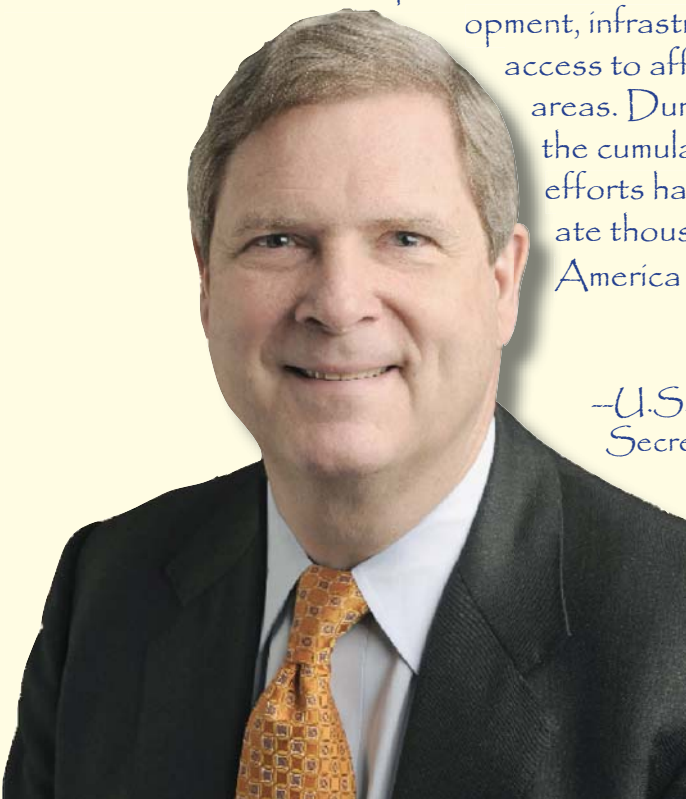


"Our Rural Development programs help create and sustain good paying jobs, and will have a lasting impact across the country. In addition to the investments of countless businesses, nonprofits, cooperatives, Tribes and local governments that partner with us, much credit

is due to our talented, efficient and dedicated workforce of USDA employees who deliver Rural Development assistance in small communities and remote areas across all 50 states and the territories of the United States.

In the upcoming year, we will continue to work with communities, residents and others to ensure that rural America continues to be a healthy, safe and prosperous place to live, work and raise a family.

—USDA Rural  
Development  
Under Secretary  
Dallas Tonsager





## A Message from State Director Virginia Manuel

USDA Rural Development has had a tremendously successful year building healthy, strong, and vibrant rural Maine communities. In Fiscal Year 2011 our agency invested **a total of over \$376 million- the largest investment of regular funding in our history**. This included leveraged funds from our partners. Our agency supports the development of renewable energy systems, invests in essential community facilities, sustains local businesses and job creation, supports community water and waste systems, and helps rural Maine families build a strong future through homeownership, home repairs, and safe, affordable rental housing. We help to build 21st Century Maine communities from the ground up.

The impact of the investments made in our rural Maine communities can be felt in nearly every sector of Maine's economy.

In the past fiscal year **over 20 percent of Maine homeowners** have utilized USDA Rural Development's Housing Programs to make their dream of owning a home a reality - 1 in 5 of all homeowners in our state!

In addition, USDA Rural Development is supporting renewable energy production, **assisting all four of Maine's Biomass Manufacturers** helping to provide alternative energy sources and reduce our carbon emissions in Maine. Through the Community Programs **34 essential community facilities were assisted** including schools, first responders, water and wastewater facilities and libraries. Maine led the nation in the number of Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants, investing \$3.4 million in 7 healthcare and education organizations to improve access to health care and educational services in Maine's most rural areas.

Within the pages of our Annual Report you will find examples of the ways we are investing in the future of our dynamic Maine communities while supporting USDA Rural Development's mission to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural Maine citizens. Our record of achievement is the direct result of our talented workforce of Rural Development employees in Bangor, Presque Isle, Lewiston, and Scarborough, who assist Mainers every day, working with partners across the state. Enjoy our profiles of Maine people, businesses, and communities that have been impacted through our programs.

Virginia Manuel  
State Director



Water Systems

Infrastructure  
Development

Continuous Job Creation

Broadband

Telemedicine

Healthcare Access

Homeownership  
Business Development  
Community Building

Regional Food Systems

Distance Learning

Alternative  
Energy

Capital Access

Home Repair

Strategic Partners

# We are Committed to the Future of Rural Maine Communities

Our Mission: To increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans.

Presque Isle



State Office



Lewiston



Bangor



Committed to the future of rural communities

Scarborough



# B uilding Strong, Vibrant Rural Maine Communities

It's What We Do, Every Day in Every Way

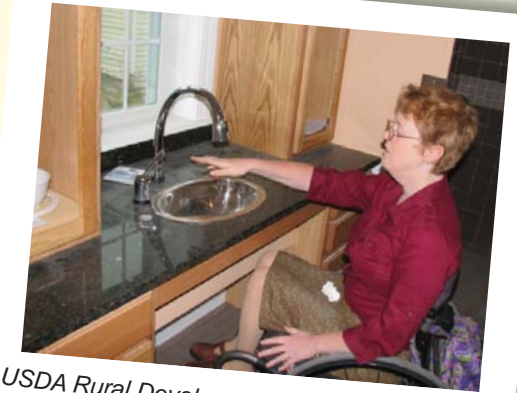
## T able of Contents

Investing in Rural Maine FY 2011: An Overview of Success .....	Pg 5 - 6
Seven Strategies for Economic Development: .....	Pg 7
Alternative Energy: Lamey Wellehan.....	Pg 8
Strategic Partners: Jennifer Turner & Greater Limestone Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility .....	Pg 9-10
Community Building: Town of Thomaston & Jonesport Volunteer Fire Station.....	Pg 11-12
Regional Food Systems: Hand in Hand Apartments & The Progress Center.....	Pg 13 -14
Regional Collaboration: The Maine Sea Coast Mission & The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.....	Pg 15-16
Capital Markets: Whitney Wreath Company.....	Pg 17
Broadband and Continuous Business Creation: The Region II School of Applied Technology.....	Pg 18
Investing the Future of Maine: Out Innovate, Out Build, Out Educate.....	Pg 19-21
Contact USDA Rural Development.....	Pg 22



# Investing in rural Maine

One community at a time



USDA Rural Development and local community make Homeownership Dream a Reality for determined Maine woman (pg 9)



## Investment in Maine Communities:

**\$376,586,266\***

Fiscal Year 2011



Housing: **\$320,326,348**



Business: **\$18,394,560**



Community: **\$27,369,683**

\*Total includes \$10,495,675 in leveraged funds

# C

# ommitted to the future of our rural communities

Rural Development impacts the lives of Maine people through its programs every day, in every way:

## Housing Programs:

- 2,004 Maine families were assisted in obtaining the American Dream of homeownership
- 199 Maine families were assisted in making essential home repairs and energy-efficient upgrades
- 4,491 Maine families/individuals were assisted with quality rental housing

## Business & Cooperative Programs:

- 2,449 jobs projected to be saved or created
- 394 Maine businesses were assisted
- 14 Businesses received renewable energy and energy efficiency Grants and Loans

## Community Programs:

- 34 essential community facilities such as schools, police and fire stations, water and wastewater facilities, libraries, and healthcare clinics were assisted
- 12,576 people were assisted in accessing quality water systems through funding of essential water and wastewater infrastructure
- 7 health care and educational facilities received Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program funds to provide enhanced learning and health care access



**Photo Caption:** Children from Coastal Kids Preschool, in Damariscotta, break ground on renovations to their preschool

# Seven Strategies for Economic Development

Building 21st Century rural communities requires adoption of strategies that look not only within a community for defining its strengths and opportunities, but to regions where one community can compliment and draw upon the resources of another.

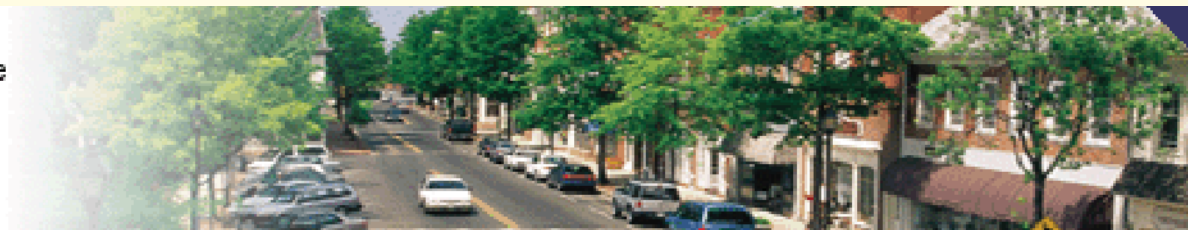
USDA Rural Development is supporting these strategies, with investments in local Maine communities. Here is how we are implementing the Seven Strategies for Economic Development through our programs.

## USDA Rural Development's Seven Strategies

- Alternative Energy
- Strategic Partners
- Community Partners
- Regional Food Systems
- Regional Collaboration
- Capital Markets
- Broadband and Continuous Business Creation



United States Department of Agriculture  
**Rural Development**  
Committed to the future of rural communities





# Strategy: Alternative Energy

## USDA Rural Development helps Lamey Wellehan Shoe Store Reduce its Carbon Footprint

“American development and use of alternative energies is good for our country and good for our environment.”

**Outline Of Need:** Small businesses are always looking for ways to reduce operating costs and remain competitive. Lamey-Wellehan, a full service retail shoe store in Auburn, wanted to cut costs in a way that would also reduce the store's carbon footprint.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development provided Lamey-Wellehan with a Rural Energy for America Program Grant in the amount of \$47,453 to install a large solar photovoltaic system. This system converts solar energy directly into electricity. The grant leveraged \$142,360 from the grantee.

**Results:** Lamey Wellehan's new solar photovoltaic system is expected to offset 58 percent of the company's annual electricity consumption, helping Lamey-Wellehan to save on operating costs and utilize renewable sources to reduce energy costs.

“We're looking forward to decreasing our energy costs further by paying the same amount for the first seven years that we would have paid in traditional electric charges, and then having the next eighteen to twenty-eight years of free energy. It's good for our business, and good for our state, as less money leaves Maine.”

~Jim Wellehan, Owner



# Strategy: Strategic Partners

## USDA Rural Development and Community Unite to make Homeownership Dream a Reality

“The old adage that there is strength in numbers especially holds true when you build strong and strategic alliances.”

**Outline Of Need:** Most of us take for granted simple things such as opening a door, turning on the sink, or cooking a meal. These are things most people do every day. But for Jennifer Turner, who was paralyzed after a hit and run car accident at the age of 13, these things require a home that is custom built with her needs in mind.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development provided a Single-Family Housing Direct Loan in the amount of \$77,000. Other partners include the City of Auburn, Auburn Housing Authority, Coastal Enterprises, Inc., numerous local businesses and 177 individual donors which raised the funds needed to help Jennifer own her own home.

**Results:** Thanks to USDA Rural Development and partners, Jennifer, now 41, has a home that fits her needs. Without this home and the amenities it provides, Jennifer would have had to consider placement in assisted living. Jennifer has attained her lifelong goal of homeownership and can now sustain independent living. Her new and completely handicap-accessible home, located in Auburn, enables her to access and navigate her entire home safely and independently.

“When most people think of freedom they think of the American flag, George Washington and eradication of slavery. But to me, freedom is opening and closing my door, getting in and out of bed without assistance, flushing the toilet, and cooking a meal from start to finish. All of which I will never again take for granted.”  
- Jennifer Turner, Homeowner



**Photo Caption:** Office of Senator Susan M. Collins State Office Representative Carlene Tremblay; Tectonic Senior Project Manager Tammy Nosek; Office of Senator Olympia J. Snowe Regional Representative Diane Jackson; USDA Rural Development State Director Virginia Manuel; Homeowner Jennifer Turner; Auburn Mayor Dick Gleason; Office of Congressman Michael H. Michaud District Representative Andrea Quaid; and District 15 Senator Lois Snowe-Mello



## USDA Rural Development and Environmental Protection Agency Partner on \$21 Million State-of-the-Art Wastewater Treatment Facility

**Outline Of Need:** Two aging rural wastewater treatment facilities (Loring and Limestone) were in need of upgrades. The project eliminates outfall discharges to the Little Madawaska Stream and Limestone Stream.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development provided \$11.35 million of the nearly \$21 million project cost, along with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The Loring and Limestone facilities were combined into one state-of-the-art facility known as The Greater Limestone Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. This facility now conveys the effluent over 3 miles to the Aroostook River, which is able to handle the capacity.

**Results:** The updated wastewater infrastructure is necessary to support businesses and job creation at the Loring Commerce Center, a 3,800-acre commercial, industrial and aviation park in Limestone. The ongoing 16-month construction project has already created nearly 300 jobs and the Loring Development Authority, which manages the commerce center, expects hundreds of permanent jobs to be created now that wet industry – such as potato processing plants – can utilize the business park, which currently is home to 20 businesses and 1,300 employees. This project highlights the Memorandum of Understanding between USDA Rural Development and the Environmental Protection Agency. Together the agencies will assist rural systems nationwide in implementing strategies and tools to allow them to achieve short- and long-term sustainability to ensure the protection of public health, water quality, and sustainable communities.



“EPA is very proud of the work done here to upgrade Limestone’s wastewater treatment facility. This is a great example of how a well-coordinated partnership of federal and state efforts is helping local communities all across Maine and New England to position themselves for robust economic growth with stable and sustainable infrastructure.” - Curt Spalding, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency Region 1



# Strategy: Community Building

## USDA Rural Development Funds Preserve Maine Clam Flats while Improving a Community's Wastewater Infrastructure

“Creating great places to live, raise families, provide recreational opportunities, and infrastructure for high paying jobs is very important to our efforts at USDA.”

**Outline Of Need:** The Town of Thomaston was in need of replacing century-old sewer lines in order to protect the area's clam flats from run-off from sewer overflows. In addition, the upgrades will improve the water quality of the St. George and Mill Rivers.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development provided the Town of Thomaston with \$1,887,000 in Water and Waste Direct Loan and Grant funds to make numerous improvements to its wastewater infrastructure, including replacement of aged and failing sewer lines.

**Results:** As a result of the Rural Development investment, the Town of Thomaston is able to preserve the surrounding environment and shellfish industry, helping to protect 1,200 acres of clam flats in the area from run off. Maine's shellfish industry is a critical part of Maine's economy, generating over \$50 million annually each year. Shell fishing has been a way of life for Maine families for generations, and many families depend on it as a source of income.

“The Maine economy depends on a clean environment. Two of our most important industries are fishing and tourism and without clean air and clean water those industries would disappear.”  
- Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (ME-01)



**Photo Caption:** Thomaston Wastewater Pollution Control Facility Superintendent John Fancy; Congresswoman Chellie Pingree; USDA Rural Development State Director Virginia Manuel; and Thomaston Town Manager Val Blastow

## Supporting Maine's Rural First Responders: Jonesport Volunteer Fire Station

**Outline Of Need:** Working in the old Jonesport Volunteer fire station had become difficult and hazardous. It had ceilings that had begun to cave in, doors that were not wide enough to accommodate the width of some of the vehicles (the firefighters had to fold in mirrors to fit inside), and inadequate space resulting in two of the fire trucks being left outside during the winter, empty of water so that they would not freeze.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facility Grant in the amount of \$200,000 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help the new public safety building come to fruition.

**Results:** The new Jonesport Volunteer Fire Department building is 3,000 square feet bigger than the former fire station. It is able to house six vehicles, has a meeting/training room, a laundry/storage room, complies with ADA requirements, and has plenty of space to store the health and safety equipment necessary to respond to the needs of the communities it serves.

"My husband and I are so pleased to have this new facility for the towns we serve. We are proud to serve alongside Jared's father and uncle and our other volunteer members. One day our children will likely be Volunteer Firefighters and utilize this facility as well." - Jonesport Volunteer Firefighter Erin Crowley serves with her husband Jared Crowley

**Photo Caption:** Jonesport Resident and Grant Writer Dr. Amr Ismail; Jonesport Volunteer Fire Department President, Byron Carver, Jr.; Jonesport Volunteer Firefighter Erin Crowley; USDA Rural Development State Director Virginia Manuel; Jonesport Volunteer Firefighter Jared Crowley; Jonesport Volunteer Fire Department Chief Boyde Crowley; Jonesport Volunteer Firefighter Pam Crowley, and Jonesport Volunteer Firefighter Brent Crowley





# Strategy: Regional Food Systems

## USDA Rural Development Supports Farmworker Families Working in Local Agriculture and Aquaculture Industries

“Building markets for local and regionally grown agricultural products makes great economic sense.”

**Outline Of Need:** Families who make a living from the local agricultural and aquaculture industries were in need of decent and affordable housing in the Milbridge area, in Washington County.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development provided nearly \$1.2 million through a Farm Labor Housing Grant and Rural Rental Housing Direct Loan to provide housing for the 6 families that will occupy Hand in Hand Apartments. USDA Rural Development will also continue to assist these families through providing Rental Assistance for all 6 units.

**Results:** Hand in Hand Apartments is a place the 6 farmworker families can call home. This project is an important step towards providing affordable housing in an area where it can be difficult for families to obtain rental housing.

Janie (cutting ribbon), her daughter Carmen (pictured), son Alexander, and husband, Reynaldo Ostorga, have been living with her grandparents in Milbridge for years. With that house about to be foreclosed on, she was about to be without a home. Instead, her family was the first of six families to move into Hand in Hand Apartments.

Janie's family is only one of many families in the area that rely on the aquaculture and agricultural industries as a source of income. Maine produces 25 percent of all blueberries in North America, making it the largest wild blueberry producer in the United States and nearly 90 percent of all American lobster are trapped off the coast of Maine.

“This is our very first home as a family where we have lived on our own without the support of other family members. It was such a blessing to us to spend our first Christmas in our new home. It is close to where my husband works and both children have their own rooms. We enjoy living here and being a part of the Milbridge community.” - Jamie Thompson-Ostorga



**Photo Caption:** Office of Congressman Michael H. Michaud Constituent Services Representative Morgan Urquhart; USDA Rural Development State Director Virginia Manuel; Janie Thompson-Ostorga (first tenant) and her daughter, Carmen; Maine Department of Agriculture Commissioner Walt Whitcomb; and Mano en Mano Executive Director Ian Yaffe



# USDA Rural Development Invests in Local Community Kitchen, Supporting Access to Locally Grown Foods

**Outline Of Need:** The Progress Center recognized a need in the communities it serves. According to the organization, a growing number of people in the surrounding communities were struggling to pay bills and feed their families. The Center began serving meals in a community church. The demand for meals went from 40 meals served the first week, to 125 per week within just a couple of months. The Progress Center needed assistance renovating its building on Cottage Street, in Norway, to include a Community Kitchen.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facility Grant in the amount of \$84,000 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help The Progress Center renovate its space to include a Community Kitchen.

**Results:** As a result of the new Community Kitchen, The Progress Center is able to assist more people than ever before, serving 200 meals three days a week.

The Community Kitchen utilizes locally grown foods from the local Farmer's Collaborative, feeding local families while supporting local agriculture. The community also supports local jobs, and employs 10 local people with disabilities. The Kitchen is made available to local farmers, bakers, and entrepreneurs during the time when it is not in use.

**Photo Caption:** The Progress Center Direct Support Professional Liz Blaquiere; The Progress Center Volunteer Marion Fringe; Department of Economic and Community Development Program Manager Terry Ann Stevens; Congressman Michael H. Michaud; The Progress Center Member of the Board of Directors Dorothy Coffin; Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce Director John Williams; USDA Rural Development Area Director Orman Whitcomb; The Progress Center Public Relations Administrative Assistant Priscilla Burnette

“One of the many wonderful things about our state is that when those in a community are in need of help, whether they ask for it or not, their neighbors come through for them. It gives me great pride to see Mainers working together to alleviate the suffering of those in need and promoting the well being of their local businesses.”-Congressman Mike Michaud (ME-02)



# Strategy: Regional Collaboration

## USDA Rural Development Supports Healthcare in Maine Island Communities through Telemedicine

“Smaller, more remote rural communities do not have to be stand-alone economic engines in an oasis, each looking only from within for sustainability.”

**Outline Of Need:** The Maine Sea Coast Mission has provided health care services to rural Maine island communities for over 100 years. Island residents rely on visits by the *Sunbeam V* (pictured) which visits four island communities twice a month. The healthcare through telemedicine has proven so useful that the islanders would like to have more frequent access than twice a month from the ship, which is weather dependent, to deliver its services.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development provided the Maine Sea Coast Mission with a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant in the amount of \$108,820 to help fund telemedicine equipment on six Maine Islands.

**Results:** The residents of Swan's Island, Monhegan, Matinicus, Isle au Haut, Frenchboro and Islesford will now have increased access to quality healthcare through telemedicine equipment and trained staff who know how to operate the equipment and can facilitate the interaction between patient and healthcare provider.

This project will also fund equipment for two mainland hospital and recipient hub sites and four hub end-user sites at Bar Harbor, Southwest Harbor, Hallowell and Camden. Equipment includes sophisticated and specialized cameras, scopes, monitors, and advanced diagnostic software. New teleconferencing units and bridging equipment will be installed at the video end points and control center in the mainland towns.

“This grant provides Maine Sea Coast Mission with an essential tool to help keep island life sustainable for the families who call them home. Residents will be able to access quality healthcare within their own communities instead of having to travel long distances for services.” -Reverend Scott Planting, Executive Director, Maine Sea Coast Mission





# USDA Rural Development Grant Reaches Across Three States to Advance Education Opportunities for Hard of Hearing

**Outline Of Need:** The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, which provides services to 650 students in Maine, was in need of equipment that would allow it to establish a collaborative telecommunications network to provide statewide programming for students and their families who are deaf or hard of hearing. Teachers of the deaf must often travel great distances to reach their clientele. In addition, parents and deaf services organizations have limited opportunities to connect with each other. The new technology helps them overcome these barriers.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development provided The Maine Education Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing with a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant in the amount of \$476,336.

**Results:** This project has resulted in technology and accompanying educational programming that is enabling deaf and hard of hearing students to overcome geographical barriers in order to obtain an education not otherwise possible. The project also reaches students in Maine, Massachusetts and New York.

In particular this project allows families and professionals opportunities to collaborate and network with each other. The project also serves as a platform with which to connect these students with hearing students, teachers and parents in underserved areas.

“This funding impacts 19 schools and agencies within Maine and an additional six institutions outside the state which serve as national hubs and render services to families of deaf/hard of hearing children who live in remote areas of Maine. We are very excited for all 25 institutions that benefit from this funding.” - Lynn Schardel, Executive Director, The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf

**Photo Caption:** A Speech and Language Pathologist works with a student at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf





# Strategy: Capital Markets

USDA Rural Development Supports Maine Agribusiness through its Business & Industry Guaranteed Program

“Stimulating local economies requires the infusion of new investment opportunities.”

**Outline Of Need:** Whitney Wreath Company, located in Whitneyville, just outside of Machias, manufactures holiday wreaths and other decorations for sale worldwide as a vendor for major retailers. The agribusiness was in need of funds to make real estate improvements.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development provided Whitney Wreath Company with a Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan in the amount of \$3,269,200 in partnership with local lender Machias Savings Bank.

**Results:** Funds were used to build a state-of-the-art wreath assembling facility that the company hopes has set a benchmark for the businesses in its local economy. This funding is expected to help save approximately 455 jobs in one of Maine's most rural counties.



“The completion of this project sends a message to the people of Washington County that Whitney Wreath is committed for the long run. I am a fourth generation Whitney to operate business here and the fifth generation of Whitneys is growing fast. We appreciate the support of USDA Rural Development and Machias Savings Bank in helping us to continue this legacy and run a strong, globally competitive business.” -Whitney Wreath Company President David Whitney

# Strategy: Broadband and Continuous Business Creation

## USDA Rural Development Expands Adult Learning Opportunities and Technical Skills Training through Distance Learning Equipment

“Expanding access to high-speed broadband is one of our greatest challenges and our highest priority.”

**Outline Of Need:** The Region II School of Applied Technology, in Houlton, wanted to connect adult learners in the state with access to an education that would help equip them with the skills necessary to improve their employability and obtain marketable technical skills

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development provided the Region II School of Applied Technology, in Houlton, with three grants totaling over \$1.4 million in Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants.

**Results:** The project will connect the adult learners in all 16 Maine counties with access to education. The Region II Project adds educational institutions including the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, United Technologies Center, Eastern Maine Community College, the Maine College Transitions program and the University of Maine at Orono, which serves as the hub, connecting to 21 adult education centers that will be acquiring desktop video conferencing equipment and computer tablets running video client-based software, offering adult learners a multitude of classes and programs geared toward job readiness skills.

“Adult learners are a diverse group in Maine, and this grant has the potential to bring together expertise from around the state to work toward bettering the life of many citizens.”—Michael Howard, Director, Region II School of Applied Technology



**Photo Caption:** The Region II School of Applied Technology Director Michael Howard; USDA Rural Development State Director Virginia Manuel

# USDA Rural Development is..

To win the future, we have to out-innovate, out-educate and  
imagination of our people. We have to take respon-  
America stronger and cutting what doesn't. And we  
leaner, and better able to take on the challenges of



out-build the rest of the world, tapping the creativity and  
sibility for our deficit, by investing in what makes  
have to reform our government so that it's smarter,  
the 21st century. -The White House

## Out Innovate:

### Gourmet Butanol

Gourmet Butanol, a college student's invention is literally "Turning yesterday's eggplant parmesan into tomorrow's fuel." College of the Atlantic student Nick Harris (pictured right) and fellow students developed the project through the college's innovative Sustainable Enterprise Hatchery, which assists students like Nick in creating sustainable businesses.

Nick plans to collect food waste from the college, as well as local restaurants and hotels to transform into butanol. The process lowers costs, reduces fossil fuel dependence, and turns waste from landfill bulk into a valuable resource. USDA Rural Development provided a Rural Business Enterprise Grant in the amount of \$73,501 to The College of the Atlantic to help create the "Hatchery" which fosters new entrepreneurs, like Nick.





# Investing in the Future of Maine

Out Build:

## Katahdin Valley Health Center

USDA Rural Development assisted the Katahdin Valley Health Center, in Houlton, through a Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan in the amount of \$1,800,000, with local lender Bangor Savings Bank.

Rural Development funds will be used to renovate and expand the health center in Houlton to include a new dental clinic. To create the new dental clinic, KVHC will renovate 1,670 square feet of its 4,103-square-foot facility in Houlton. The clinic will include dental exam rooms, a dental lab, office and administrative space. In addition, the parking lot will be expanded and the entire lot repaved.

There is a lack of dental care available for families in need in Aroostook County, and demand for services is expected to be very high, similar to other rural areas in Maine that are underserved by dental services.

First opened in Houlton in 2006, KVHC serves more than 4,600 patients annually, most of whom are uninsured or underinsured. The Houlton clinic offers sliding fees to those who meet federal income guidelines, with discounts ranging from 20 to 80 percent per visit.

**Photo Caption:** Katahdin Valley Health Center Executive Assistant Mary Hall demonstrates the new dental equipment at the Houlton facility



# Out Educate:

## Walter T.A. Hansen Library

USDA Rural Development will assist the Walter T.A. Hansen Memorial Library in Mars Hill through a Community Facilities Program Grant in the amount of \$43,150 for upgrades and repairs to the facility.

The Library, which serves the communities of Mars Hill, Blaine, Bridgewater, Robinson, and D & E Plantations, offers the community more than an opportunity to check out books. It also offers a place for community members to gather for activities such as knitting, cribbage games, computer services, children's programs, and other activities.

USDA Rural Development funding will help the Library make much needed repairs including new lighting, new electrical outlets (some rooms have none) additional laptops, new vinyl siding and roof repairs. These upgrades ensure this important community resource remains vital to the people it serves.

The Library, constructed in 1952 bears the namesake of area businessman, Walter T.A. Hansen, who left the town funds to build and help maintain a new library building.

**Photo Caption:** Storytime for children at the Walter T.A. Hansen Memorial Library

## Investing in Maine Libraries

USDA Rural Development has invested \$2.6 million in 12 rural Maine libraries through the Community Facilities programs, and \$433,436 through a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant which helped link 15 rural Maine Libraries through distance learning technology.





# Contact a Rural Development Office near you today:



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PO Box 405  
Bangor, ME 04402-0405  
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Fax: (207) 990-9165



**B**angor Area Office  
1423 Broadway, Suite 3  
Bangor, ME 04401-2468  
Tel.: (207) 990-3676  
Fax: (207) 990-5092  
Serving Hancock, Knox,  
Penobscot, Piscataquis,  
Somerset, and Waldo



**S**carborough Area Office  
306 US Route 1, Suite B1  
Scarborough, ME 04074  
Tel.: (207) 883-0159  
Fax: (207) 883-2740  
Serving Cumberland, Sagadahoc,  
Lincoln, and York Counties

**P**resque Isle Area Office  
735 Main Street, Suite 1  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
Tel.: (207) 764-4157  
Fax: (207) 762-2246  
Serving Aroostook, a Portion  
of Northern Penobscot, and  
Washington Counties



**L**ewiston Area Office  
254 Goddard Road  
Lewiston, ME 04240  
Tel.: (207) 753-9400  
Fax: (207) 784-1335  
Serving Androscoggin,  
Franklin, Kennebec, and  
Oxford Counties



# USDA Rural Development

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2011

MAINE

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/me/>

**Committed to the future of rural communities.**



"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."  
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.,  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382